(a) whether Government are aware that Mirchaiganj was sometimes back connected by overhead telephone line with Nalanda Exchange;

(b) whether a telephone was installed in the Mirchaiganj post office which was functional for long even before Kakaila was connected with Nalanda;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the circumstances leading to Mirchaiganj now being declared as NTF area and farther from Nalanda Exchange;

(e) whether DET who is a resident of Kakaila village is instrumental to deprive Mirchaiganj of a telephone connection; and

(f) if so, action Government would take against officers concerned in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There was a Long Distance Public Call Office (LDPCO) working in Mirchaiganj post office from Nalanda Exchange on overhead lines before Kakaila was connected with Nalanda exchange.

(d) There was a heavy breakdown of this overhead alignment in 1993-94, which could not be repaired. Further, since Mirchaiganj post office is beyond the local area of Nalanda exchange, it could also not be replaced with underground cable. Now, it has been planned to connect this village from the proposed Dahpur exchange or on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) from Nalanda exchange, whichever comes earlier.

(e) and (f) No, Sir, In view of the reply to para (d) of above.

Overcharging by Service Providers in A.P.

2490. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Andhra Pradesh gullible Telecom customers are forced to pay large amounts to prime rate service providers, who register their names with the Telecom Department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pulse rate to be charged is decided by the service providers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the facility is being misused for "Chat Service"; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Premium Rate Metered (PRM) service is basically aimed at offering the specialized information to the public from the experts like legal advice, medical advice, financial/stock market information etc. at a premium. The pulse rates which are possible on the Intelligent Network (IN) Platform for the PRM service are of 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 30, 60 and 90 Seconds. Depending on the market, the PRM. Service Provider opts for one of the pulse rates for the PRM Service and gives publicity in the newspaper also.

(c) BSNL is the network service provider and not the content provider. The content is provided by the PRM service provider.

(d) (i) This service has been made available to those subscribers who have STD facility.

(ii) The STD facility itself is provided with dynamic locking arrangement.

(iii) Access to PRM service is disabled for those customers who request for the same.

(iv) BSNL has asked the PRM service providers to sign the service agreements after which BSNL shall be able to take steps including termination of the services in case a complaint is received against any illegal or unlawful activity of the PRM service provider.

Mobile pulse rate in Orissa

2491. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has got the lowest share in telecommunications, mobile, dot.com, internet and other telecom services, if so, the reasons, therefor;

(b) the number of telephones given to different States including Orissa during the last three years;